

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 NEAE-00 IO-12 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 SY-07

USSF-00 NIC-01 ACDA-19 OMB-01 RSR-01 /108 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1634

INFO USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 2274

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USINT CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 4307

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, LE, IS

SUBJECT: LEBANESE DECISION TO CALL FOR UNSC MEETING

SUMMARY: I BELIEVE IT VITALLY IMPORTANT THAT USG FOLLOW CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH WHICH SISCO INDICATED TO KABBANI IN DEALING WITH GOL COMPLAINT TO SC. WHILE I DID NOT OPPOSE US VETO OF LAST LEBANESE SC RES, REPETITION WOULD SERIOUSLY DAMAGE US INTERESTS HERE AND THROUGHOUT MIDDLE EAST. GOL ASSURES US IT WILL SUPPORT CONDEMNATION ALL ACTS OF VIOLENCE AND BELIEVES IT POSSIBLE OBTAIN RES THIS SENSE; THUS WE SHOULD HAVE SOME OF BALANCE LACKING LAST TIME AROUND. EMOTIONS IN LEBANON AND IN OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES ARE RUNNING VERY HIGH AND NEGATIVE US ATTITUDE WOULD PLAY INTO HANDS OF RADICALS (WHO PUSHING " BIG LIE" ABOUT USG- GOI COMPLICITY IN BEIRUT RAID). END SUMMARY.

1. I GREATLY WELCOME INTENTION CONVEYED SISCO TO KABBANI OF CONSTRUCTIVE USG APPROACH TO SC AND APPLAUD AMB. SCALI' S HANDLING OF TEKOA (USUN TEL
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1341). I BELIEVE THAT IT IS IMPORTANT FOR USG INTERESTS IN LEBANON AND IN ARAB WORLD GENERALLY BE AS FORTHCOMING AS POSSIBLE IN DEALING WITH PROBLEM POSED BY CURRENT SC MEETING.

2. USG VETO OF SC RES ON ISRAELI BOMBING RAIDS LAST SEPTEMBER WAS UNDERSTANDABLE IN ABSENCE ANY REFERENCE IN DRAFT RESOLUTION TO CONDEMNING OR DEPLORING TERRORISM, ESPECIALLY COMING SO SOON AFTER MUNICH. THIS EMB NEVER QUESTIONED NEED TO STRESS, BY VETO, OUR LONG- STANDING POSITION ON CONDEMNING OR DEPLORING ALL TYPES OF VIOLENCE. AS DEPT AWARE, GOL AND LEBANESE PUBLIC REACTED NEGATIVELY TO OUR VETO, PARTICULARLY SINCE IT WAS FOLLOWED SO CLEARLY BY TWO- DAY IB KINVASION OF SOUTH LEBANON ON SEPTEMBER 16 AND 17, AN ACTION WHICH SOME SAID FORESHADOWED, IF NOT ENCOURAGED, BY OUR VETO. DESPITE NEGATIVE REACTION, SITUATION EVOLVED WITHOUT SERIOUS DAMAGE TO USG- GOL RELATIONS.

3. PRESENT SITUATION IS QUITE DIFFERENT, AND NEGATIVE USG REACTION WOULD, IN MY JUDGEMENT, HAVE SERIOUSLY ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES FOR USG IN LEBANON AND OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES. IT WOULD ALSO HAVE NEGATIVE EFFECT ON EFFORTS PRESIDENT FRANGIE PRESENTLY MAKING TO RIDE OUT STORM AND REGATHER SUFFICIENT POLITICAL SUPPORT TO FORM NEW GOVT CAPABLE OF HOLDING LEBANON TOGETHER AND EVENTUALLY TAKING FIRMER ACTION VS. TERRORISTS WHO USE LEBANON AS BASE OF OPERATIONS.

4. MAJOR DIFFERENCES FROM SEPT SITUATION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A. GOL WILL SUPPORT RES WHICH SPECIFICALLY CONDEMNS OR DEPLORES VIOLENCE OF ALL KINDS.

B. LEBANESE FONOFF HAS TWICE ASSURED US IT HAS EGYPTIAN AND ALGERIAN SUPPORT FOR THIS POSITION.

C. FRANGIE IS UNDER SUCH HEAVY PRESSURE AT
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HOME, STIMULATED IN PART FROM IRAQ AND SYRIA, THAT

PM SAEB SALAM FORCED TO RESIGN.

D. GOL BEING ACCUSED BY IRAQIS AND SOME RADICAL CIRCLES IN LEBANON OF DIRECT COMPLICITY WITH ISRAEL AND UNITED STATES IN SUCCESSFUL ASSASSINATION RAID OF APRIL 10.

E. EMOTIONS IN LEBANON AND, AS BEST WE CAN JUDGE, IN OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES AS WELL, ARE RUNNING VERY HIGH AGAINST BOTH ISRAEL AND USG BECAUSE OF " BIG LIE" CAMPAIGN. " BIG LIE" IS FAR FROM DEAD AMONG EMOTIONAL ARABS AND CONTINUES TO BE PUSHED BY CERTAIN RADICAL GOVTS AND ORGANIZATIONS. (EVEN ONE US GOVT EMPLOYEE IN ARAB CAPITAL RECENTLY ASKED ONE OF OUR REGIONAL OFFICERS IF IT WERE TRUE).

F. FRANGIE IS ENDEAVORING HOLD LEBANON TOGETHER, TO AVOID A REPETITION OF 1969, AND FORM NEW GOVT CAPABLE OF CONTINUING FRANGIE' S PRO- WESTERN POLICIES AND EVENTUALLY TAKE FIRMER ACTION AGAINST TERRORISTS WHO USE LEBANON AS A MAJOR BASE.

5. NEGATIVE USG POSITION IN SC WOULD BE SEEN AS REBUFF TO EFFORTS BY GOL AND CERTAIN OTHER ARAB GOVTS TAKE AS MODERATE AND CONSTRUCTIVE AN APPROACH AS THEIR POLITICAL SITUATION PERMITS TO DEAL WITH GROWING PROBLEMS OF TERRORISM. LATTER APPROACH SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO MAXIMUM DEGREE, REALIZING THAT IT WILL TAKE CONSIDERABLE TIME FOR ARAB POSITIONS TO EVOLVE BUT SUPPORTING EFFORTS BEGIN THAT PROCESS. ALGERIAN AND EGYPTIAN PARTICIPATION, IF TRUE, WOULD BE ESPECIALLY SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE OF INFLUENCE THEY HAVE WITH OTHER ARAB GOVTS ON THIS QUESTION. NEGATIVE USG POSITION WOULD ALSO BE SEEN, PROBABLY BY FRANGIE HIMSELF, AS APPROACHING A DISAVOWAL OF WHAT HE HAS BEEN TRYING TO DO TO HOLD LEBANON TOGETHER AND CONTINUE HIS PRO- WESTERN POLICIES. PERHAPS MOST IMPORTANTLY, IT WOULD ALSO BE INTERPRETED WIDELY AS CONFIRMATION OF USG COMPLICITY WITH GOI IN SUCCESSFULLY STAGING APRIL 10 ASSASSINATION RAID AND USG WILLINGNESS CONDONE ANY
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ACTION GOI TAKES AGAINST ARABS AND/ OR PALESTINIANS. WHILE OUR POLITICAL/ SECURITY SITUATION IS ALREADY BAD AS RESULT " BIG LIE" I HARDLY NEED EMPHASIZE WHAT IT WOULD BE IF COMPOUNDED BY A NEGATIVE STANCE IN US.

BUFFUM

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